

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, PO

SUBJ: POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS: MOOD OF CONFRONTATION

1. THERE IS GROWING MOOD OF CONFRONTATION IN OPORTO AND THE NORTH STEMMING FROM FRUSTRATION AND INDIGNATION OVER THE GOVERNMENT'S INABILITY TO MAINTAIN ORDER IN LISBON.

2. IN THE COUNTRYSIDE PEOPLE SEEM MORE INCLINED TO TAKE MATTERS INTO THEIR OWN HANDS. FOR EXAMPLE, SOCIALISTS (PS) OCCUPIED LOCAL OFFICE OF RADICAL LEFT SOCIALIST MOVEMENT (MES) IN AVEIRO NOV 13 AND LATER ISSUED STATEMENT SAYING THEY WERE PREPARED TO TAKE UP ARMS IN DEFENSE OF VI GOVERNMENT. AVEIRO POPULAR DEMOCRATS (PPD) AND SOCIAL DEMOCRATS (CDS) SUPPORTED PS STATEMENT. IN VISEU FOLLOWING NOV 13 RALLY IN SUPPORT OF VI GOVERNMENT, DEMONSTRATORS BRIEFLY SEIZED NATIONAL RADIO (EN) OFFICE ONLY TO DISCOVER LOCAL STATION WAS FULLY AUTOMATIC, AND TOTALLY UNOCCUPIED.

3. SIMILARLY IN OPORTO, PEOPLE ARE VENTING FRUSTRATIONS AGAINST SYMBOLS OF COMMUNIST AND FAR LEFT ACTIVITY. FOR SECOND NIGHT IN ROW CROWDS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST PORTUGUESE RADIO CLUB WHERE DETERMINED COMMUNIST MINORITY CONTINUES TO PREVENT OPORTO STATION FROM GOING INDEPENDENT. PEOPLE ALSO GATHERED IN FRONT
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OF TRASHED INTERSINDICAL OFFICES GUARDED BY POLICE AND OCCUPIED

BY LEFTIST (FUR) TOUGHS BUT DID NOT REPEAT PREVIOUS NIGHT'S ASSAULT.

4. PPD LEADER SA CARNEIRO HELD PRESS CONFERENCE IN OPORTO NOV 14 DURING WHICH HE STRONGLY CRITICIZED MILITARY FORCES IN LISBON FOR PACIFISM OR COMPLICITY IN FACE OF COMMUNIST MOB RULE. SA CARNEIRO LUMPED ARMY CHIEF OF STAFF RABIO TOGETHER WITH COPCON COMMANDER OTELO CARVALHO AND FORMER PRIME MIN. VASCO CONCALVES AND SAID CHOICE WAS CLEAR: EITHER PORTUGAL STAYS WITH PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO OR THE GOVERNMENT FALLS INTO DICTATORSHIP OF PROLETARIAT UNDER VASCO CONCALVES. SA CARNEIRO ADDED THAT IF GOVERNMENT ORGANS CANNOT FUNCTION IN LISBON, ORGANS SHOULD MOVE TO ANOTHER CITY, SUCH AS OPORTO, WHERE SAFE CONDITIONS CAN BE GUARANTEED. PPD HAS SCHEDULED RALLY NOV 15 IN OPORTO WITH PARTICIPATION OF SA CARNEIRO IN SUPPORT OF VI GOVERNMENT. SIMILAR RALLY IS PLANNED FOR NOV 16 IN VISEU WITH PRIME MINISTER PINHEIRO DE AZEVEDO.

5. COMMENT: I NOTE TWO NEW ELEMENTS TO SITUATION IN THE NORTH WHICH SHOULD BE ADDED TO EQUATION OF GROWING CONFRONTATION. REFUGEES ARE BEGINNING TO ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN ANTI-COMMUNIST DEMONSTRATIONS. THEY HAVE INVADDED FOUR LOCAL HIGH SCHOOLS AND A UNIVERSITY BUILDING IN PAST WEEK TO SCUFFLE WITH LEFTIST STUDENTS AND DESTROY MPLA BANNERS. EYEWITNESS SOURCES ALSO TELL ME THEY FORMED SHOCK GROUP TO INVADE INTERSINDICAL OFFICE. IN ADDITION, PRESIDENT COSTA GOMES HAS LOST IN THE NORTH WHATEVER CREDIBILITY HE EVER HAD AS A RESULT OF ACTION (OR INACTION) WHILE HIS PRIME MINISTER AND CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY WERE HELD CAPTIVE IN LISBON. COSTA GOMES NOW DISCREDITED AND DERIDED AS ANOTHER FABIO WHO FIDDLES WITH THE LEFT WHILE THE COUNTRY BURNS. PENNER

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